

NOTES ON SUBTROPICAL PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN OHIO

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SUBTROPICAL ALGAE IN OHIO

Throughout the year, the indoor pools of the William Tricker Company in Independence, Ohio, serve as a reliable source of subtropical aquatic plants and animals. Since the greenhouses are devoted to the propagation of waterplants and tropical fish, the water, within, is always kept above seventy degrees Fahrenheit.

Extremely interesting forms come and go but some of those which are not quite so ephemeral remain and can be observed at any time. For the last four years, collections of algae have been made there and we have usually been able to obtain fairly large quantities of a species which up until October, 1938, had been unknown to us.

Dr. Clarence Taft of Ohio State University identified the algae from a sample sent to him as *Compsopogon coeruleus*, one of the rarer members of the family, Rhodophyceae, or red algae. According to Gilbert Smith, the genus is one that has always been considered tropical or subtropical in distribution.

The occurrence of this species in Ohio was undoubtedly due to its introduction along with subtropical aquatics planted in the pools, and it is of especial interest to observe it in other local water gardens and aquaria throughout northern Ohio.

SPREAD OF A FRESH-WATER BRYOZOAN IN NORTH AMERICA

In January, 1934, while collecting brown hydra in the indoor water-lily pools of the William Tricker Company greenhouses the writer observed hundreds of small colonies of fresh-water bryozoa on the leaves of water plants and on the sides of the cement tanks. These were later identified as *Lophopodella carterii* from the article entitled "Studies on Fresh-water Bryozoa. 1. The Occurrence of *Lophopodella carterii* (Hyatt) in North America," by Mary Rogick of Ohio State University, which appeared in the October, 1934, issue of the Transactions of the American Microscopical Society. These first specimens

described and sent to the United States National Museum by Miss Rogick came from southwestern Lake Erie.

However, in *Science* (June, 1934), Professor Ulric Dahlgren of Princeton described the form which we suspected as being similar to those appearing in Independence as having been found four years earlier in the Delaware and Raritan Canal at Princeton, New Jersey. In the September, 1934, issue of the *Ohio Journal of Science*, the results of the collections made by Mary Rogick were published.

Since the bryozoa first appeared in the warm water of the greenhouse pools, they have become extremely abundant there covering many of the submerged flower pots, pipes, plants, and tank walls. Within a very short time, they appeared in the pools of the Buskirk Company of Independence. Later on they were observed growing in aquaria in other parts of northern Ohio.

Concerning the spread of this animal, it is of interest to consider the role played by the William Tricker Company which has imported aquatic plants from many tropical and subtropical areas throughout the world, and, in turn, has shipped them throughout the entire country. I have actually seen many plants covered with this beautiful form being sent to water-garden enthusiasts in various sections of the country. Interestingly enough, too, this same company has its main plant, seventeen acres of growing pools and greenhouses, located at Saddle River, New Jersey, the same state in which Dr. Dahlgren first described the bryozoan. As Dr. Dahlgren stated in his article, it is a clean form, and makes an extremely interesting inhabitant of an aquarium.
